



BASARA™

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.2



shōjo

BASARA

Vol. #2

Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #2

Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by

Yumi Tamura

English Adaptation by

Gerard Jones

Translation/Lillian Olsen

Lettering and touch-up art/Bill Schuch

Editor/P. Duffield

Supervising Editor/Ian Robertson

Cover Design/ Yuki Ameda

Graphics & Design/ Yuki Ameda

Editor/ Ian Robertson

Managing Editor/Annette Roman

Editor in Chief/William Flanagan

Director of Licensing and Acquisitions/Rika Inouye

Sr. Vice President of Sales & Marketing/Liza Coppola

Sr. Vice President of Editorial/Hyoe Narita

Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

©1991 Yumi Tamura/Shogakukan, Inc.

First published by Shogakukan, Inc. in Japan as
"Basara"

BASASRA is a trademark of VIZ, LLC. All rights reserved. New and adapted artwork and text © 2003 VIZ, LLC. All rights reserved. No unauthorized reproduction allowed. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in Canada.

Published by VIZ, LLC.

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, September 2003



store.viz.com

www.viz.com

CONTENTS

INDIGO TALE 1: DEPARTURE.....	7
INDIGO TALE 2: THE KANMON TUNNEL.....	49
CHARTREUSE TALE 1: THE TWO TATARAS.....	94
CHARTREUSE TALE 2: REUNION.....	141
TAM-TAM TIME	189



STORY THUS FAR

In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. 300 years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in their Chieftain's son Tataru and raised him as the "Boy of Destiny".

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved by means of strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister to secretly take up his sword and fulfill the prophecy of their birth. Sarasa must lead her people in her brother's name or all will be lost.

Sarasa's daring plan to retrieve the ancestral Byakko sword from the Red King's Lighthouse Fort ends in triumph, though the Red King succeeds in wounding her. While nursing her wound at a hot spring, Sarasa meets a young man named Shuri, who is actually the Red King. They discover a budding mutual attraction, each unaware of the other's true identity.

During a mission to seek aid from their allies in Ochiori Valley, some of the people of Byakko Village are captured by the Red King's men. Despite her accomplishment at Lighthouse Fort, Sarasa's attempt to rescue her people en route to the slave camps of Kyoto ends in a disaster, costing her the lives of more loved ones.

After this terrible lesson, Sarasa is unable to continue putting others at risk. Alone, she follows her late grandfather's last instructions, heading to Sakurajima in Kyushu to search for allies. But between Sarasa and Kyushu lies Suo City, capital of the Red King!



Sarasa (disguised as Tatara)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tatara was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tatara, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.

The Red King

Youngest of the King of Japan's four sons, only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. In charge of the Midwest, Shikoku, and Kyushu, it is up to him to take care of the potential threat of the "Boy of Destiny." A ruthless but effective ruler, he crushes those who oppose him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of a complex, unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tatara's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Nagi

Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared the prophecy at the birth of Tatara and Sarasa. Nagi is also a priest, a doctor and a teacher, and he has educated Sarasa despite others who questioned the wisdom of teaching so much to a girl.



General Kazan

The Red King's military leader, General Kazan's loyalty is as fierce as his sword. While louder and less sophisticated than his King, General Kazan would not hold his position if he were not an educated, reliable, tactically astute man.



Asho

An advisor to the Red King, he is plainly not as blindly loyal as General Kazan.



Sarasa's mother

The Red King captured her along with other villagers after the death of Tatara and her husband, Byakko Village's Chief. She was badly abused by the Red King's men until General Kazan "rescued" her. Intent on killing herself, once she learned Sarasa was alive and carrying on in Tatara's name, she became determined to survive.



Yato

An exceptionally fast horse, this proud stallion was Tatara's steed, and Tatara was his only rider. Now that Sarasa has taken on her brother's name, she must care for his horse, but the headstrong Yato has yet to accept her as his master.

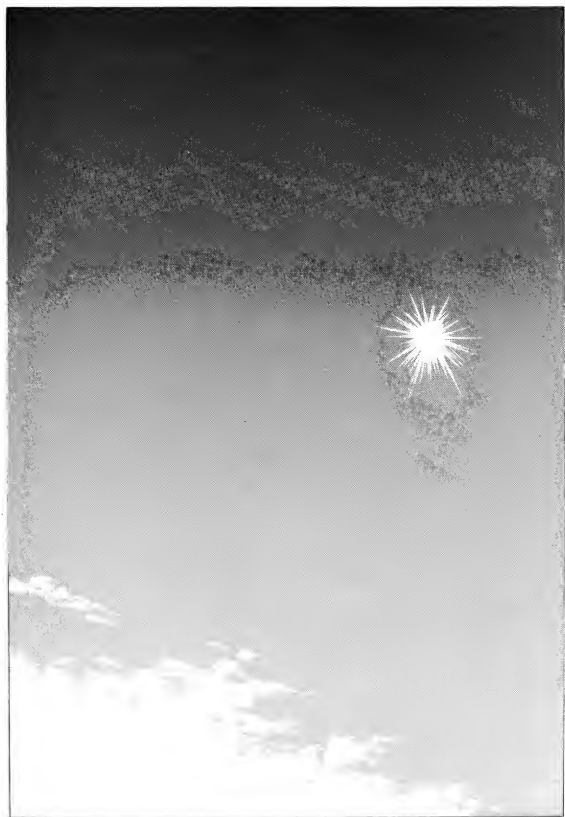


Hisha

A fast and enduring runner, Hisha is from Ochiori Valley, and his people are allies of Byakko Village. His speed makes him the perfect choice to act as messenger between "Tatara" and others.

INDIGO TALE 1:
DEPARTURE







TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

SARASA (disguised as Tataru)

People have mistakenly read it as "SARASA"

I don't know if people around here have last names, but she's just plain Sarasa.

Born Aug. 15 (Leo), blood type O.

Born in Byakko Village, Sanyo (around the current Okayama).

15 years old (she doesn't go to school).



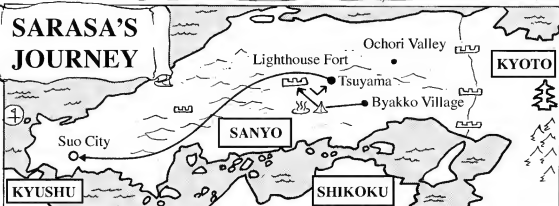
I was trying to draw a dazzling, fighting beauty, but she just ended up a tomboy...

Some readers have lamented, "Why does she have to go through all this—she's a girl!"

...but I think she rises to the challenge because she's a girl!

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY





SUO
CITY...

The panel is split into two main sections. The top right section is a close-up of a character with long, light-colored hair, looking intently at a city. The character's hand is raised to their forehead, and their eyes are wide with a focused expression. The bottom left section shows a wide, panoramic view of a city, likely Suo City, built on a hillside. The city features a mix of traditional and modern architecture, including domes, spires, and a large wall. The foreground shows a rocky, uneven terrain with some small plants. The sky is filled with clouds, and there are some small, dark, irregular shapes floating in the air, possibly debris or magical particles.

IT'S
SO
BIG!

I'M SORRY
FOR
LEAVING
WITHOUT
TELLING
ANYONE.

*I want to be
alone for a while.
I'm sorry.*

SORRY...

NAGI...
EVERY-
ONE...



MAYBE
"TATARA"
ISN'T
MEANT
TO STAY
WITH THE
PEOPLE
HE LOVES.

BUT
I
DON'T
WANT
TO LOSE
ANYONE
ELSE.

I
HEARD...

...THAT THE ONLY
WAY ACROSS IS BY
BOAT...

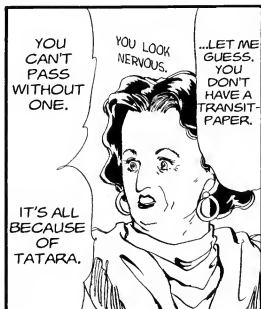
...BOATS
THAT
SAIL
FROM
SUO
CITY.

NAGI...

I HAVE TO
GO BY
MYSELF.

SAKURA-
JIMA.

GO
THERE.
LOOK FOR
THOSE WITH
THE SUZAKU
SWORD.
THEY WILL
BE YOUR
FRIENDS.



WH-WHO
ARE THESE
PEOPLE!?

THEY'RE
SO...
GAUDY.

M. BUTTERFLY

THERE
SHE
GOES,
BEIN' A
BUSYBODY.

BUT
LOOK AT
THIS
POOR
LITTLE
GIRL
HERE.

MY
FEET
ARE
KILLIN'
ME.

LET'S
KEEP
WALKIN',
MADAM.



HEH

MADAM,

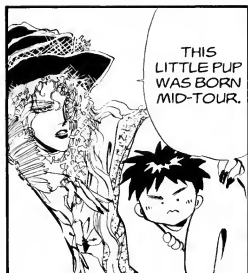
I
CAN
TAKE HER
ALONG AS MY
ATTENDANT.

TH-
THANKS.

SO
PRETTY!

WOW!







MARIO!
THEY'LL
KILL YOU
IF THEY
HEAR THAT
IN THIS
CITY!

THEY'LL
NEVER
GET
TATARA!



YOU
WON'T GET
THERE.
CIVILIANS
CAN'T
BOARD
BOATS
RIGHT
NOW.

THEY'RE
DESPER-
ATE TO
FIND
TATARA.



UH...
KYUSHU...

DO YOU
HAVE A
PLACE
TO GO?



THAT
MEANS
THE RED
KING IS
HOME.

LOOK.

SEE THE
RED FLAGS
ON THE
PALACE?



RIGHT
THERE...
AND YET...

THE
RED
KING.

...FARTHER
FROM MY
REACH
THAN
KYUSHU,
NOW...



WE'LL
HAVE A
GREAT
SHOW
FOR
YOU!

WEET
WEET
WEET

KICHO,
I
LOVE
YOU!

WE'RE
BACK
AGAIN!

MADAM
BUTTERFLY
AND HER
TROUPE!

YAY
YAY
YAY

WOO-
WOO



SUCH
BIG
BUILD-
INGS...

SO
MANY
PEOPLE...

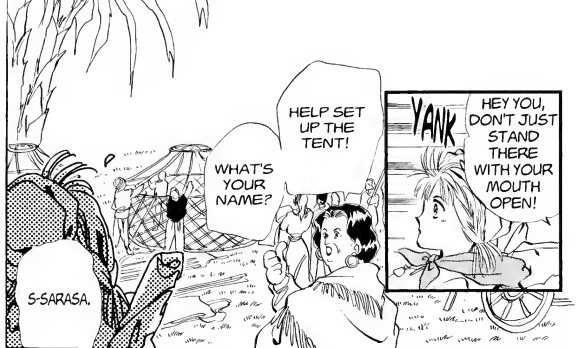
AND
SO
MANY
TREES...

B-BMP

B-BMP

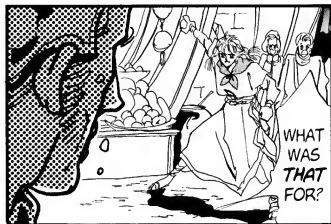
I'M A
COUNTRY
BUMPKIN

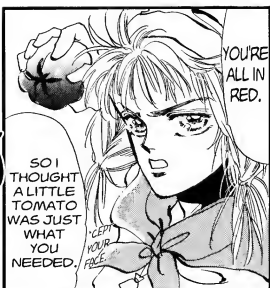
B-BMP

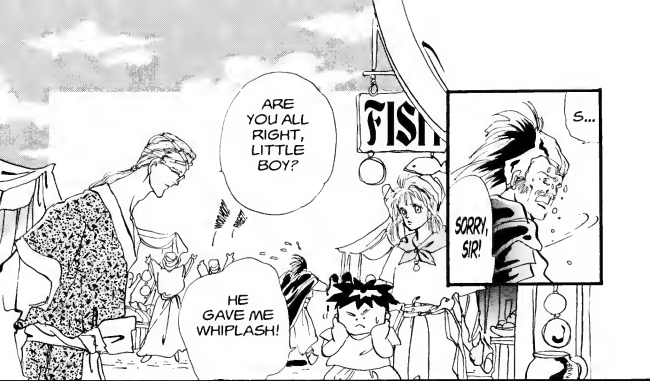




SHE'S NEVER SEEN FISH BEFORE.









WHAT...



...FOOL.

DON'T
DRAW
ATTEN-
TION...

...TA-
TARA.



BE SURE
TO VISIT
KYUSHU,
TOO.

PLEASE
WATCH
OUR
SHOW.

'BYE.



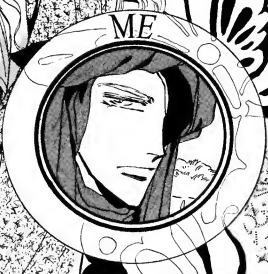
AGEHA!?

THAT'S
RIGHT!



IT'S
ME.

YOU
DIDN'T
NOTICE?
ARE
YOU
BLIND?



ME

THE RED PALACE

...THAT
YOUR
HIGHNESS
ALLOWED
TATARA TO
ESCAPE.
HE
DE-
MANDS
THAT YOU
FORFEIT
YOUR
LANDS...

...AND
RETURN
TO KYOTO
AT ONCE!

HIS
MAJESTY
EXPRESSES
ANGER...

I GOT
KICKED
BY A HORSE
THE OTHER
DAY.

CAN'T
HEAR A
WORD
SINCE, I'M
AFRAID.

IS
THAT
CLEAR,
SIRE?

FOR
THE
PRESENT,
I WILL
ADMINISTER
THIS
DOMAIN.





NO.

THE MESSENGER GOT LOST IN THE DESERT.

HE NEVER MADE IT HERE.



GRAB

KAZAN!

EK!

YESSIR!

CUT HIM UP!



I SPEAK FOR THE KING!

I- I AM THE ROYAL MESSENGER!



YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, SHURI.



HA
HA
HA
HA

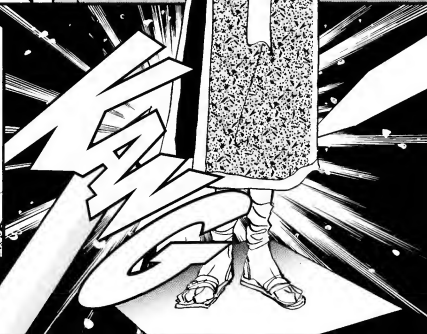
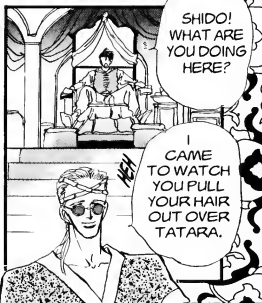
HOW COULD I FEAR MY DADDY AND BE A KING?



STOP!

IT WILL BE YOUR DEATH, ONE DAY!

YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE DOING, RED KING!





I
DON'T
REALLY
KNOW.



AND JUST
WHEN I
THINK
HE'S
A
MASTER-
MIND,
HE
BUMBLES
HORRIBLY!

...OR
IF HE
TRULY
EXISTS.

WE
DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE
ACTUALLY
LOOKS LIKE.



SHURI,

WILL
YOU
LET
ME...

...TAKE
CARE
OF
TATARA?



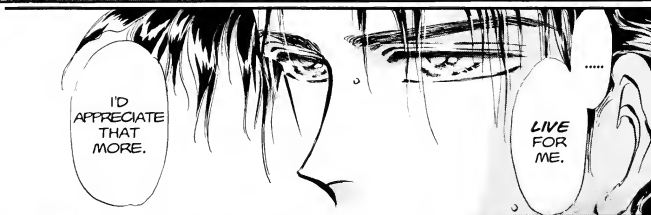
SO
WE WAIT
FOR HIS
NEXT
MOVE.

HE
SOUNDS
LIKE AN
IMPRESSIVE
FOE.



IT
HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN MY
DREAM TO
DIE FOR
YOU.

YOU
KNOW...



I'D
APPRECIATE
THAT
MORE.

.....

LIVE
FOR
ME.



MM.
BUT
NOT
INTER-
ESTED.

THERE'S
A GIRL
WHO'D
REFUSE
YOU?

GOOD
FOR
HER.



GAVE
THEM
AWAY.

SORRY.

SHE
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
CUTE.



WHAT
DID YOU
DO WITH
THE OLIVE
SEEDS
I GAVE
YOU?

IN HERE
↓



HEY!

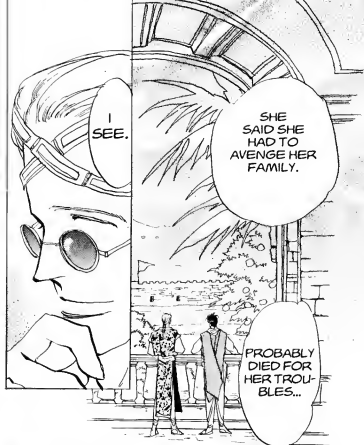
TIME
FOR
SAKE!

BY
THE
WAY,
SHURI...



HELP YOURSELF, SARASA.

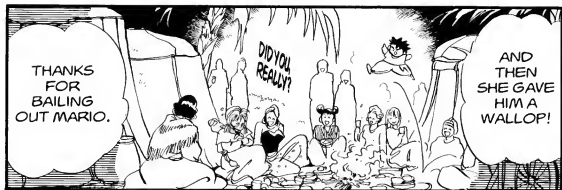
EAT ALL YOU WANT.



I SEE.

SHE SAID SHE HAD TO AVENGE HER FAMILY.

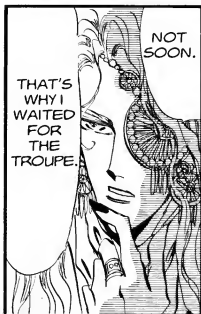
PROBABLY DIED FOR HER TROUBLES...



THANKS FOR BAILING OUT MARIO.

DID YOU REALLY?

AND THEN SHE GAVE HIM A WALLOP!



NOT SOON.

THAT'S WHY I WAITED FOR THE TROUPE.



WOO-HOO YAY

AGEHA...

YOU'RE POPULAR.

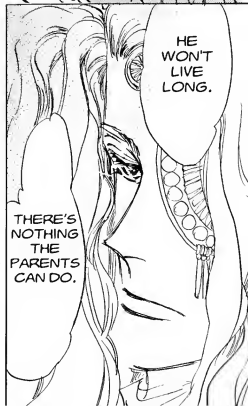
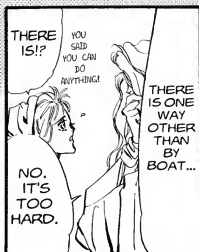
IS THERE A WAY TO CROSS TO KYUSHU?

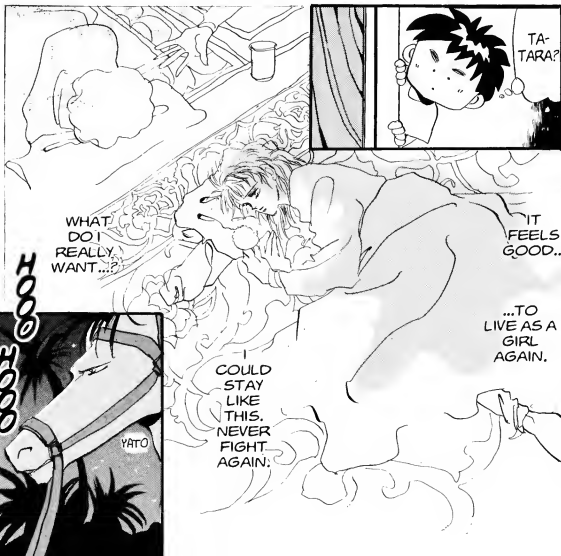


FOOMP

I'LL BREATHE FIRE FOR YOU!

SAVE THE TRICKS FOR TOMORROW!



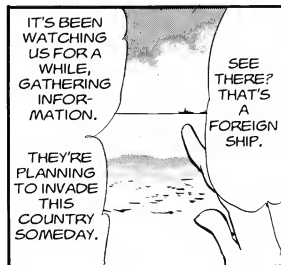


SSSS

SSSH

SEE?

KYUSHU'S
ACROSS
THE
STRAIT.



FIRST
TIME AT
THE
OCEAN?

GASP





A BATTLE-SHIP...



SS
THAT FOOL, KING UKON, THINKS HE CAN MAKE PEACE WITH THEM.

BUT IT'S RUMORED...



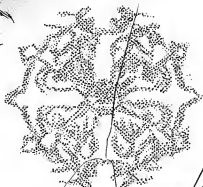
THIS COUNTRY CAN'T DEFEND ITSELF WITH ITS OLD WAYS.

SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL BE INVADED.





...ON YOUR BACK?



WHAT'S THAT...
MARK...



SLAVERY STILL EXISTS EAST OF KYOTO. HERE IN THE WEST...





TO
THAT
MURDERER!?

THANKS!?



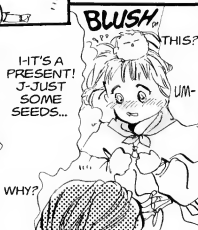
THANKS...

...TO
THE
RED
KING?



BE HAPPY,
SHURI.
YOU
AREN'T
FORGOT-
TEN.

WHEW!
IT'S
CUR-
IOUS.



IT'S A
PRESENT!
J-JUST
SOME
SEEDS...

WHY?

BLUSH

THIS?

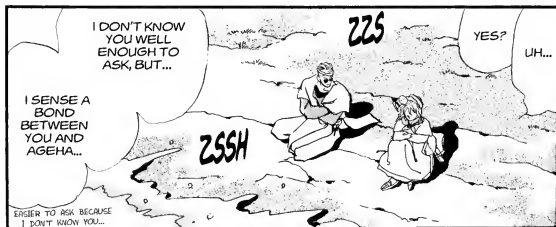
UM-



OH...

I'VE
BEEN
MEANING
TO ASK.

WHAT'S
THAT
AROUND
YOUR
NECK?



I DON'T KNOW
YOU WELL
ENOUGH TO
ASK, BUT...

I SENSE A
BOND
BETWEEN
YOU AND
AGEHA...

EASIER TO ASK BECAUSE
I DON'T KNOW YOU...

ZZS

YES?

UH...

ZSSH



IF...

...BUT IT MEANS
TERRIBLE
SACRIFICES...
AND YOU'VE ALREADY
LOST PEOPLE YOU
LOVE...

SHOULD YOU
STILL DO IT?

IF
THERE'S
SOME-
THING YOU
HAVE
TO DO...
WANT
TO DO...



IT
ISN'T
"WHETHER
YOU DO
OR YOU
DONT."

AH!

AVENGE
HER
FAMILY...

WELL,
A FRIEND
I GREATLY
RESPECT
WOULD
SAY...

ONLY
THEN WILL
YOU HAVE TO
MAKE FEWER
"SACRIFICES."

IT'S **HOW**
YOU'LL
SUCCEED IN
WHAT YOU'VE
DECIDED TO
DO.



ALWAYS
ASK
YOUR-
SELF...

PEOPLE
DIED
BECAUSE...

...IF
YOU'RE
SURE OF
YOURSELF.

I WAS...

...AND
UNSURE...

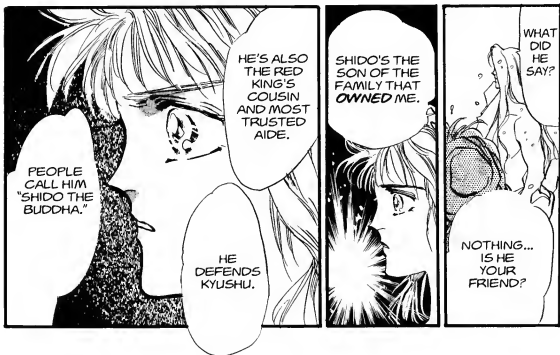
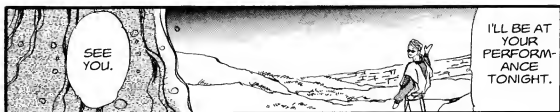
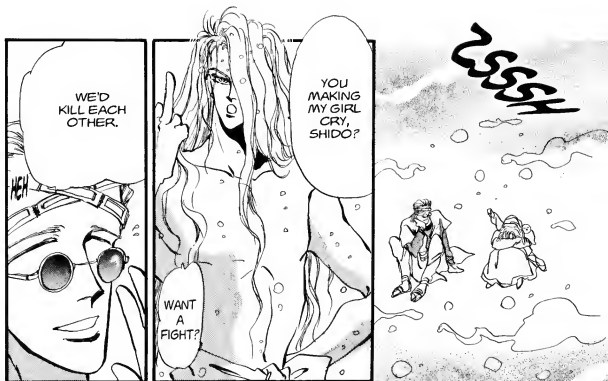
IF
YOU
DID ALL
YOU
COULD.

...WEAK...

...ON THE
DAY I CUT
MY HAIR...

...EVEN
THOUGH I
TOLD
MYSELF...

...THAT
I WOULD
LIVE AS
TATARA.

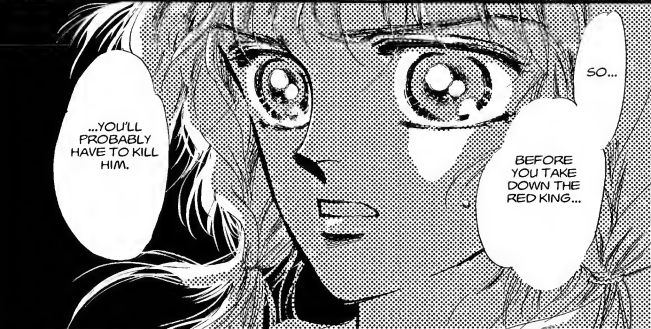




HE
SPEAKS
WITH THE
SWEETNESS
OF A
BUDDHA.

...HE
SENDS
THOUSANDS
TO HEAVEN.

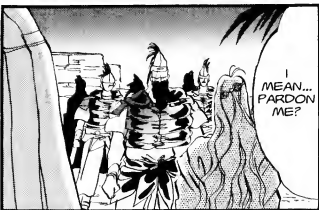
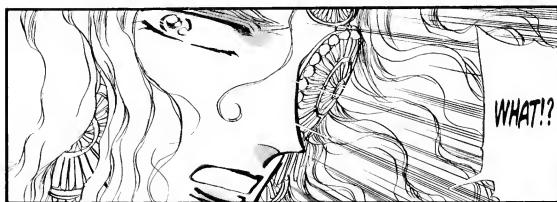
BUT
WHEN
THERE IS
WAR...

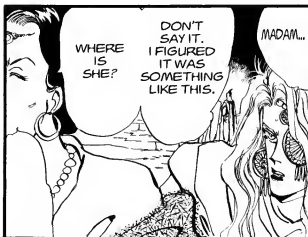
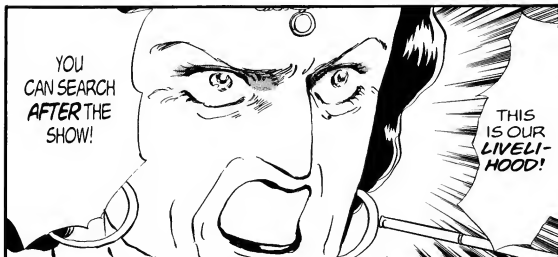


...YOU'LL
PROBABLY
HAVE TO KILL
HIM.

SO...

BEFORE
YOU TAKE
DOWN THE
RED KING...







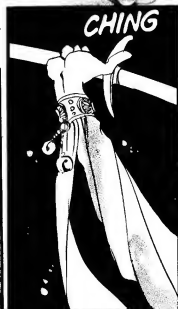
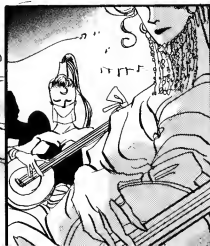
OUR
BRIGHTEST
STAR!

LET
US
INTRODUCE
KICHO

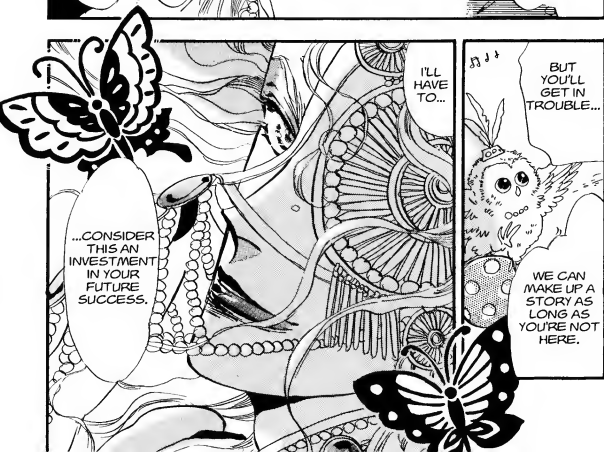
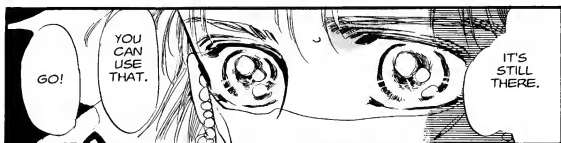
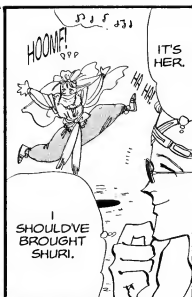
LADIES
AND
GENTLEMEN...

MADAM
BUTTERFLY
WELCOMES
YOU!

OBSERVE
THE
SWORD
DANCE!





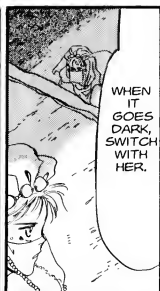




TO THE
KANMON
TUNNEL...



NOW!



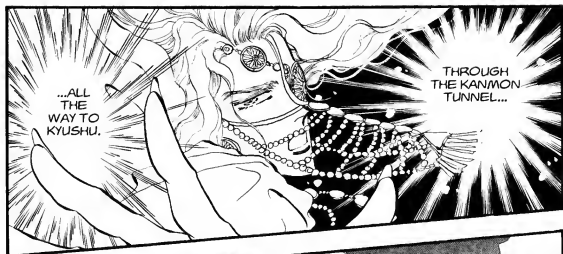
WHEN
IT
GOES
DARK,
SWITCH
WITH
HER.

ALAS, TATARA,
OTHERS HAVE TRIED
THAT PATH.

NO ONE HAS YET
COME THROUGH IT
ALIVE.







...ALL
THE
WAY TO
KYUSHU.

THROUGH
THE KANMON
TUNNEL...



THANK
YOU,
MADAM.

TAKE THIS
CANDLE
AND SOME
MATCHES.

AT THE
SOUTH
END OF
THE
BEACH,

THERE'S
A
"KEEP OUT"
SIGN.



BE
CAREFUL...

TATARA...

SNEAK OUT
THROUGH
THE
AUDIENCE!



THEY
CALL IT THE
TUNNEL TO HELL.

INDIGO TALE 2:
THE KANMON TUNNEL



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

Age
unknown ♂

(He could be older than you think.)

No one knows how long he's been
around or how long he'll stay.
maybe he'll be around forever.

NAGI

師
(TEACHER)



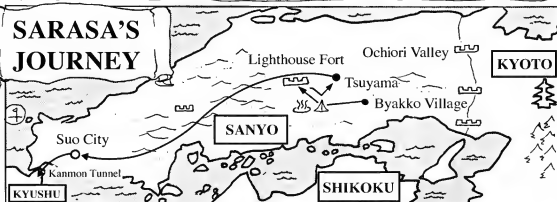
He's strangely popular,
but I know there's
more to him than
meets the eye...

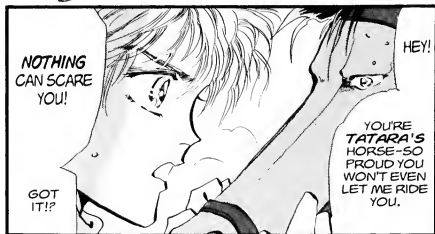
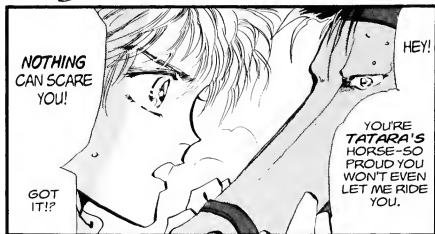
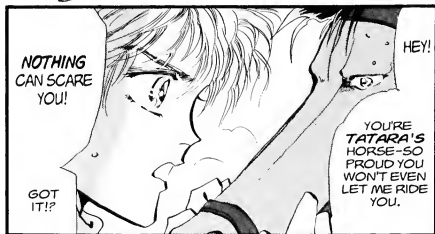
(REALLY?) ♀



TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY







KN

SH

OH!!

IT'S
OKAY.
IT'S A
STRAIGHT
PATH.

PEE!

PEE!

YOU,
TOO,
SHIN-
BASHI...?

CAREFUL
WHERE
YOU STEP.

PINK

PINK

NAGI
SAID-

IF
FIRE
BURNS, THE
AIR MUST BE
SAFE.

WHERE'S
TATARA!?

I JUST
SAID I
WANTED
SOME...

TATARA!?

UM...
TAR!

DMM

LORD
SHIDO.

NOW,
NOW,
GENERAL.
HE'S ONLY
A CHILD.

WATCH
IT,
BRAT!

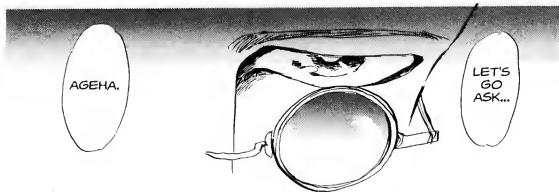
THINK
I'M
STUPID!?

THE RED
KING PUT
ME IN CHARGE
OF DEALING
WITH TATARA.

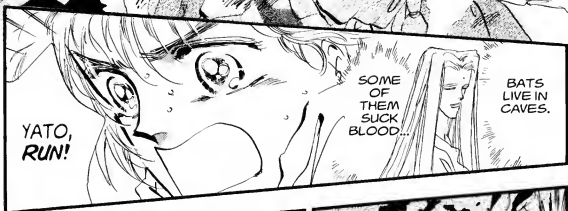
INSPECT
ALL SHIPS AND
INCREASE
GUARDS AT EVERY
ENTRANCE
TO THE CITY.

YES,
SIR!









YATO,
RUN!

SOME
OF
THEM
SUCK
BLOOD...

BATS
LIVE IN
CAVES.



LOOK...
THE
BATS...

WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
TATARA,
NOT BATS.

THISSA



RIGHT?

WHICH
WAY?

LEFT?



LEFT!







...OR
A
HUMAN!?



SHARP-
ENED
BONES,
FROM...

...AN
ANIMAL?



A
TRAP?

HFF

HFF

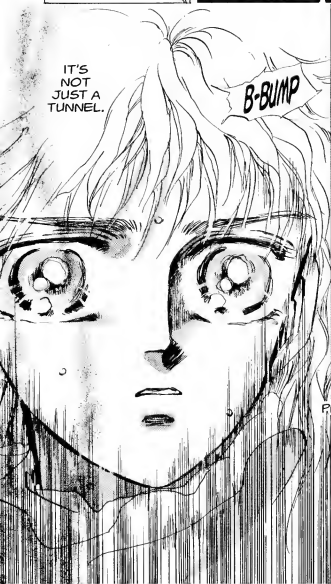
HFF

IT'S
OLD.

WHO
MADE
IT?

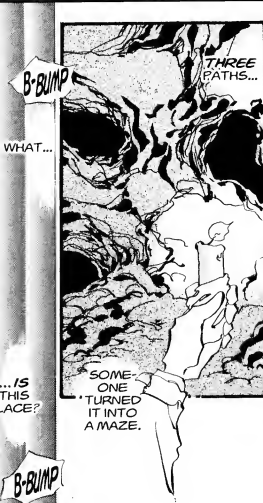
KRR
KREE

KRR



IT'S
NOT
JUST A
TUNNEL.

B-BUMP



B-BUMP

WHAT...

THREE
PATHS...

SOME-
ONE
TURNED
IT INTO
A MAZE.

...IS
THIS
PLACE?

B-BUMP



TATARA.

...SHOW
ME.

IF YOU
TRULY
ARE
THE
BOY OF
DESTINY...

SURVIVE
THAT
TUNNEL!

I'VE
PASSED
THIS SPOT
TWICE!

NO!

WAAH!

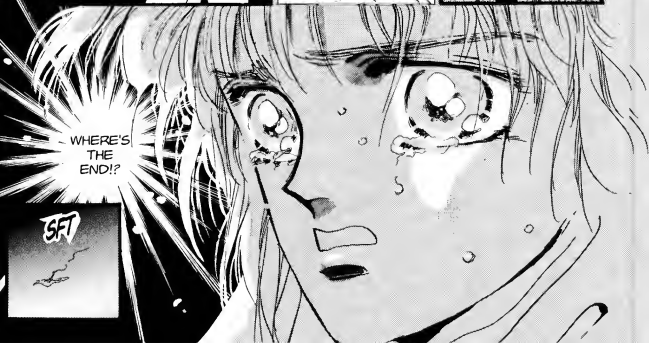
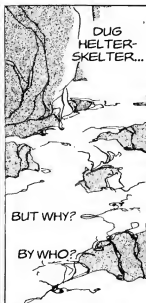


OR...

I
DON'T
KNOW!

...HAVE
I?

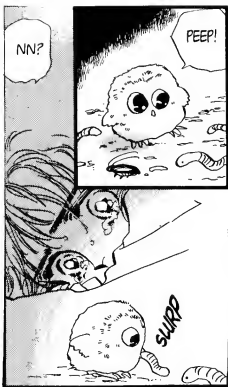
I
DON'T
KNOW!

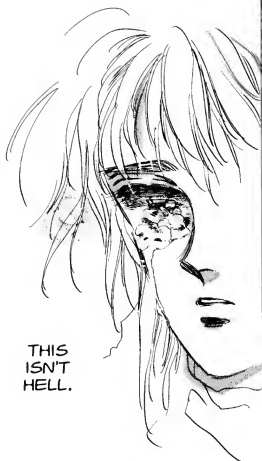












THIS
ISN'T
HELL.



THERE
ARE
BATS AND
SNAKES...

...AND
INSECTS
HERE.

THIS
ISN'T
HELL.

FOR IF
THERE
WERE,
THAT
WOULD
BE HELL.

THERE
IS NO
DARK
VOID OF
ALL
THINGS.



WHEN
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO,
MAKE A LIST.



PFFT



SHM



WHERE
DOES
THE
RED
MARK
GO?

I'LL
MAKE
A
LIGHT,
NAGI.



PUT A
GREEN
MARK ON
WHAT
YOU
NEED TO
KNOW
BETTER...



PUT A RED
MARK ON
WHAT YOU
SHOULD
DO FIRST,
THEN
YELLOW.



I'LL
USE
MARKERS
SO I
DON'T
GET
LOST.

WHAT DO
YOU NEED
TO KNOW
BETTER?

SNIFF



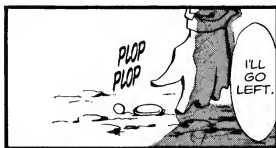
A
PLAN-
TAIN
LEAF
FOR MY
SORE
FEET.

AND
THE
YELLOW?

THEY SAY IT WORKS



SNAP



PLOP
PLOP

I'LL
GO
LEFT.



WHEN
YOU
CAN'T
USE
YOUR
EYES,
USE
THE
REST.

PEOPLE
HAVE
MORE
THAN
FIVE
SENSES.

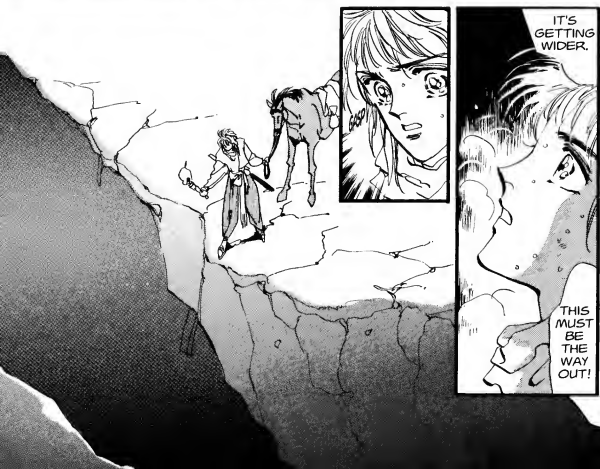


YATO!

LET'S
GO!







TO
KYUSHU!

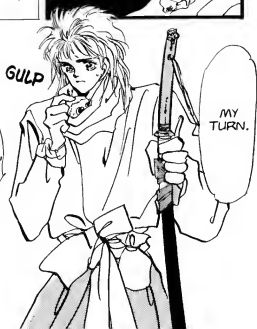
IT'S
GETTING
WIDER.

THIS
MUST
BE
THE
WAY
OUT!





SHINBASHI,
GET
INSIDE.

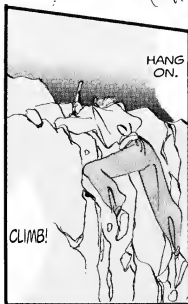




CAN'T
MAKE
IT!



HYAH!



HANG
ON.

CLIMB!

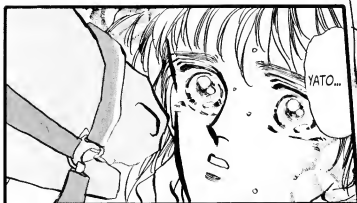


I
CAN'T
FALL!



NGH!

SH!

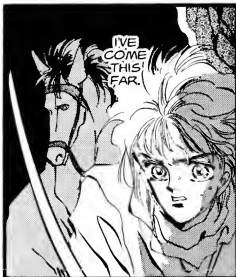


...MUST
GET TO
KYUSHU...

...TO
SUZAKU
VILLAGE...

...TO
FIND
FRIENDS.









FRESH.

THE
AIR...

...LIKE
THE
OCEAN.

IT
SMELLS...

IN
A
FIGHT...

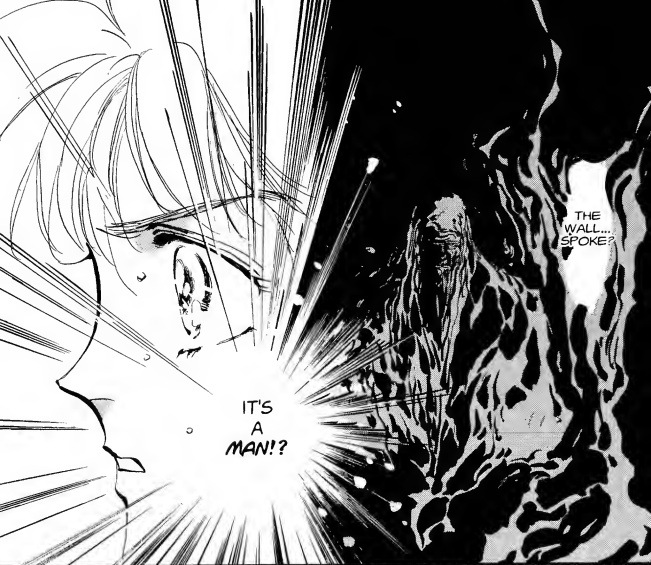
PEOPLE
AND
ANIMALS...

...HAVE
THE SAME
WEAK-
NESSES.

COME
ON!







THE
WALL...
SPOKE?

IT'S
A
MAN!?



WHAT
IS
HE?

HE'S
LIKE...
OLD
WOOD...

AT
LAST
YOU
HAVE
COME...

HE'S
CRYING!

YOU
HAVE
COME.

...EVEN
A
WARRIOR
WHO HAS
TRAVELED
SO FAR?

DOES
MY
APPEARANCE
FRIGHTEN
YOU?

WE
LOST,

BUT
SWORE

TO
RISE
AGAIN.

WE
FLED
TO THE
FOUR
CORNERS,
TAKING ONE
OF THE FOUR
SWORDS TO
EACH.

LONG
AGO,

WE
ROSE

AGAINST
THE ONE
CALLED
THE
"LION KING."

SUZAKU!?

AM
RASHO
OF
SUZAKU.

MY
GRAND-
FATHER
TOLD ME
THAT
STORY...

I
WENT
TO
SAKURA-
JIMA...

ONE

WAS
MY
SUZAKU.

THAT
WAS A
LONG
TIME
AGO.

BYAKKO
WAS
ONE
SWORD.

THEY
KNEW
EACH
OTHER!?

THAT'S
MY
GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER...

GENSHO
FROM
BYAKKO?



...AND
BANISHED
HERE.



...WITH
THE KING.

ONE OF
OUR MEN
WAS IN
LEAGUE...

I WAS
TAKEN
PRISONER...



ONE
DAY,

...AND
QUIETLY
BUILT A
VILLAGE.

WE
WILL
FIGHT
AGAIN!

BUT...



...WILL
NO LONGER
ERUPT.

THE
VOLCANO
OF
SAKURA...



ALL
I
HAD...

IT WAS
CHAINED
TO THE
WALL.

I
HAD
NO
FOOD.

IF I
HAD
TO EAT
MOSS...

...WAS
MY
RAGE.

IF I
HAD
TO LICK
THE SALT
OFF
ROCKS...

I
WOULD
SURVIVE!

I
LIVED
TO RIP
ASUNDER
THE
TRAITORS...

...AND
DEFEAT
THEIR KING.

...I
COULD
NOT DIE!

THAT
IS
WHY...

SO
THE
TRAPS
AND
MAZES...

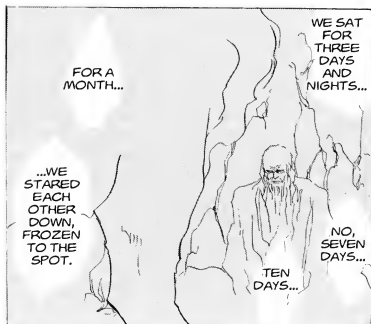
...WERE
MADE BY
PRISONERS
TO AVOID
THE LIONS!

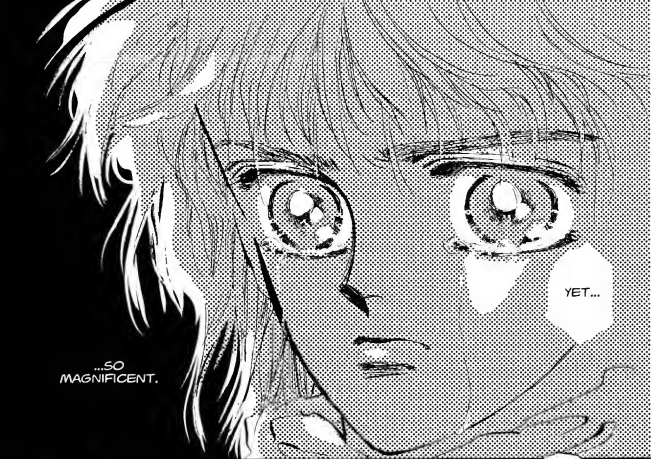
...LETTING
LOOSE
HIS
LIONS...

THROWING
PRISONERS
INTO THIS
PIT...

THE
LION
KING
WAS A
MONSTER.

...TAKING
PLEASURE
IN THE
SOUNDS OF
THEIR
FEEDING.





...SO
MAGNIFICENT.

YET...



...A
WARRIOR
HOLDING
ONE OF
THE FOUR
SWORDS.

ONE
DAY...

...THERE'D
COME...

I
KNEW
THAT
YOU
WOULD
APPEAR.



THINK
ONLY
OF HOW
YOU
CAN
GET
OUT OF
HERE.

HIS
BODY...

...TO
COME
WITH
ME.



WILL
YOU...?

NO...
I CAN'T
ASK HIM...



I HEARD
THE
AUTHORI-
TIES AT
DAZAIFU
CAPTURED
MY
FAMILY.

FIND
THEM,
IF THEY
YET
LIVE.



GO
BACK,

TO
THE
WORLD
OF THE
LIVING.

TAKE
MY RING
WITH
YOU.



THAT IS THE PATH I HAVE CHOSEN.



TATARA.





DUSK FALLS
ON THE
ROAD

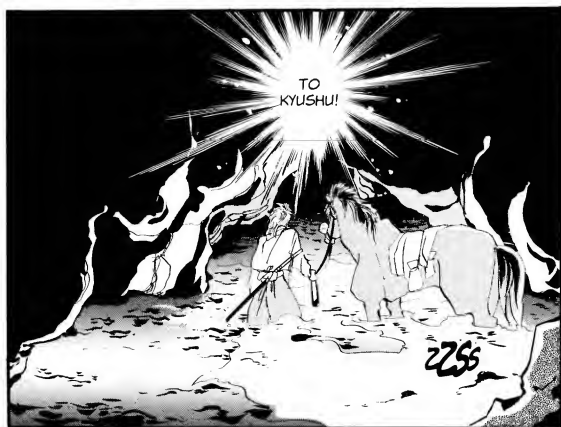
TONIGHT,
I WILL STAY,

UNDERNEATH
A CHERRY
TREE.



MY HOSTS,
THE CHERRY
BLOSSOMS,

LINE UP
TO GREET
ME
WARMLY.







MKG

IVE
NEVER
SWUM
BEFORE.

IVE
NEVER
SEEN SO
MUCH
WATER.



GLB

...IN
OUR
MOTHER'S
WOMBS.

...SWAM
ONCE...

YOU
CAN
SWIM.

...BEFORE
WE WERE
BORN...



...TOGETHER.

...HANG
ON!

YATO...

I
WON'T
LET YOU
GO.

YOU'RE
TATARA'S
HORSE...

WE'VE
GOT TO
GO...

MY
HORSE!



CHARTREUSE TALE 1:
THE TWO TATARAS





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

SHURI - The Red King

17-years old but experienced with women. (Really?)

Born Aug. 6, also a Leo, blood type B.

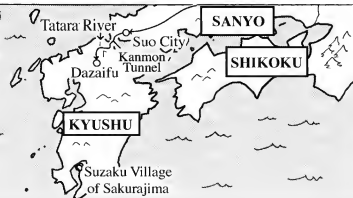


He obviously has a complex history- but it's still shrouded in mystery.

If you think he's actually a nice guy deep inside...you're naive.

TAM UO

SARASA'S JOURNEY







JOIN TATARA,
BOY OF DESTINY!

I AWAIT THOSE WITH
COURAGEOUS SOULS
AT TATARA SHORE,
NORTHEAST OF
DAZAIFU

TATARA



ANOTHER
TATARA!?

SOMEONE
IS USING
TATARA'S
NAME?

WHAT
IS
THIS?



I'LL TRADE
FOR THOSE
FRILLY
CLOTHES.

WHAT?
YOU'RE
BROKE?



GRAND-
MA!

WAIT...
I HAVE
NO
MONEY...



IS THERE
ANYWHERE I
CAN GET
FOOD AND
WATER?

COME
WITH
US.

SH
I'VE
GOT
TO
SEE
THIS.



THANKS.

IT'S TWO OR THREE HOURS BY HORSE.

TATARA SHORE IS DOWN THE TATARA RIVER.



HER OLD CLOTHES.







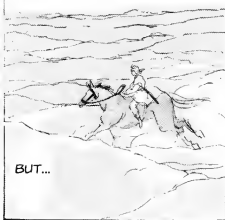
STILL,

IF I'M GOING TO "TATARA RIVER"...

...IT'S DESERT HERE, TOO.

CLASH

...I THOUGHT KYUSHU WOULD BE LUSH AND GREEN.















THE ROYAL SEAL.



HE RED KING'S AUDIENCE CHAMBER.







KAZAN!
SIRE!

I
DO
NOT...

GIVE THIS
MAN'S POST
TO SAKAKI!

...NEED
FOOLS
IN MY
ARMY.



HOW
DOES
HE
KNOW?

UM...
WELL...



WHERE'S
SHIDO!?

THEY'LL
WAIT!

SIRE!
THE
OTHER
FILES...

IN
THE
ROOM
OF
JUDG-
MENT,
SIRE.



I HEAR
YOU'RE
KEEPING
A BEAU-
TIFUL
WOMAN
AT YOUR
HOUSE.

ARE YOU
FINALLY
SETTLING
DOWN?



I APOLOGIZE.
I AM TO BLAME
FOR PLACING
HIM AS
COMMANDER.

KAZAN!





...TO
HUMILIATION.

I'M
NO
STRAN-
GER...



JUST
LIKE
OLD
TIMES.

WHY
DON'T
YOU
CALL
ME BY
NUMBER,
SHIDO?



AGEHA?

SSH
BUT
TELL ME,
AT LEAST,
WHERE
SARASA
WENT LAST,
AGEHA.



...! I
ADMIRE
YOUR
PRIDE.



AGH!

THAT HURTS.

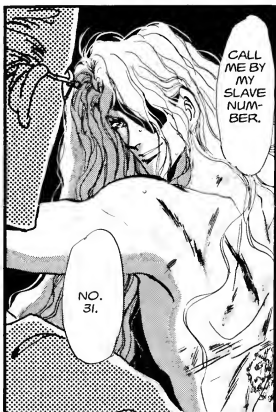
SKCH



SHIDO!

BAM

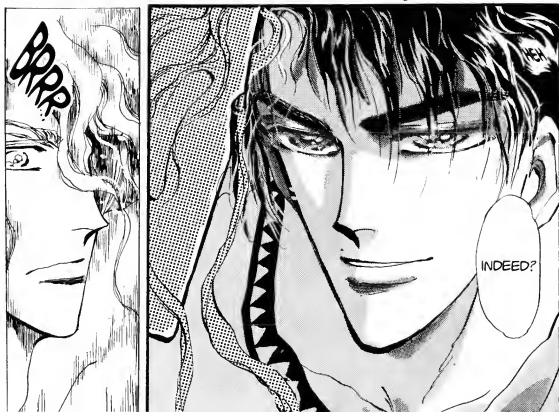
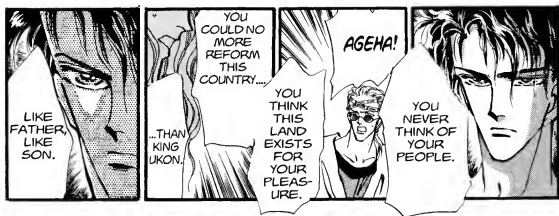
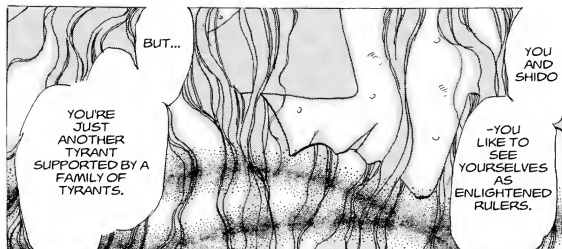
S-SIRE!



CALL
ME BY
MY
SLAVE
NUM-
BER.

NO.
31.





HE IS NO
ORDINARY
MAN.



I DID MY
BEST
TO
PRO-
VOKE
HIM.

HE
LAUGHED
IT OFF.



NOW.

TAKE
HIM
WITH
YOU.



TELL
ME.

SHURI,
IF TATARA'S
GONE TO
KYUSHU,
THERE MAY BE
AN EASY WAY
TO FIND HIM.

YOU
KNOW
THE OLD
SAYING

"LIKE A
MOTH TO
THE FLAME."





...SURROUNDED
BY
OLIVE TREES
AND BUSTLING
STREETS.

DAZAIFU

A
DIPLOMATIC
AND STRATEGIC
COMPOUND
GOVERNING ALL
KYUSHU...

YEAH!!

WE'LL ALL MEET IN
FRONT OF THE
SOUTHERN GATE
AT SUNDOWN.

A
CLASSIC
WAY FOR
GUYS TO
BOND...

HEY, NEW
BOY.
GOTTA
FEE?

BRRR

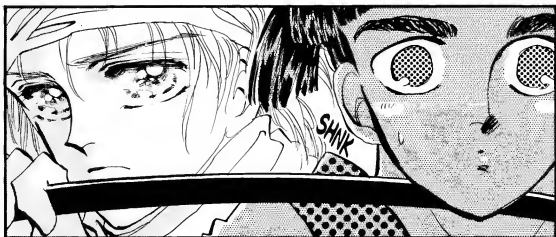
DO NOT
URINATE
HERE

TINKLE

ALMOST
THERE.

TINKLE

PSSH PSSH





DID YOU
EAT?
YOU HAVE
TO EAT,
MA.



MY
MOM HAS
HAD A BAD
LIVER.



HOW
ARE
YOU
FEEL-
ING?

PRETTY
GOOD,
TODAY.

I
WANT
YOU TO
BRING
THEM TO
DZAIFU.

THAT'S
ALL.



CALL
YOURSELF
TATARA
AND
GATHER
MEN.

...FOR
DOING
THIS
JOB.

LORD
SHIDO,
DZAIFU'S
CHIEF
OFFICER,

SAID
HE'D
GIVE ME A
REWARD
AND GOOD
MEDICINE
FROM
OVER-
SEAS...



SHIDO!



LORD SHIDO JUST WANTS TO TALK.

HE'S A KIND MAN. HE'S POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN!?

BAM!
ANYONE WHO GATHERS AROUND TATARA WILL BE KILLED!



WHAT KIND OF FOOL ARE YOU!?



I NEED THAT MEDICINE!

I MUST TELL THE OTHERS!

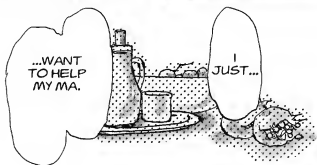
STOP!



THEY'RE NOT GONNA TRUST THE NEW BOY.



BESIDES, THEY THINK I'M TATARA.



...WANT TO HELP MY MA.

I JUST...

NOTHING
BUT PAIN
HER WHOLE
LIFE.

POOR
MA
HAS
HAD

WAS A
SLAVE
OF THE
LOWEST
RANK.

AND
MY
DAD

EVEN
AFTER
SLAVERY
WAS
ABOLISHED,
HE WAS
STILL
TREATED
LIKE ONE.

SHE
DESERVES
AN EASIER
LIFE, TO
HAVE
SOMEONE
TAKE CARE
OF HER.

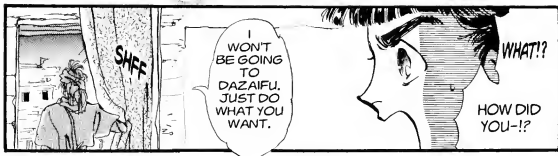
MY
GREAT-
GRANDPA
WAS A
TRAITOR.

THEY
EXECUTED
HIM.

SO
HIS
SON, MY
GRANDPA...

...WAS
LOCKED
UP HIS
WHOLE
LIFE.







BUT
YOUR
FAMILY...

...WORKS
FOR THE
ENEMY,
NOW.



RASHO
OF
SUZAKU...

I THOUGHT
WE WERE
IN THE
SAME
STRUGGLE.



WHO
IS
HE!?

AND
HE
LOOKS
LIKE A
GIRL.

HE'S
NOT
LIKE THE
OTHER
MERCENARIES.



TO-
NIGHT,
I...

COME
HOME
AS
EARLY
AS YOU
CAN...

OKAY,
MA.



MA, I'LL BE
OUT KINDA
LATE
TONIGHT.



UH...
YEAH!

HAYATO,
DID YOUR
FRIEND
GO
HOME?



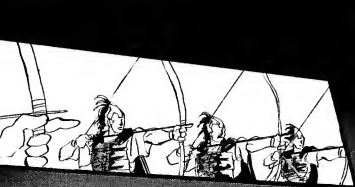
A
RING
WITH A
CREST...

IT'S
A
FALCON.

.....







...TO
ROUND
UP...

...EVERY
TROUBLE-
MAKER WHO
WOULD
FOLLOW
TATARA.

LORD
SHIDO
IS
PRETTY
SMART,

THIS
WAS
HIS
SCHEME...

HE'S
NOT
HERE.

WHERE'S
LORD
SHIDO?!

I
WASN'T
TOLD
ABOUT
THAT.

FINISH
IT!

I'M
NOT
ONE
OF
THEM!

NO!
NOT
ME!

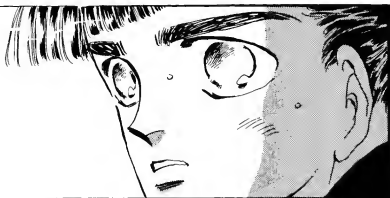


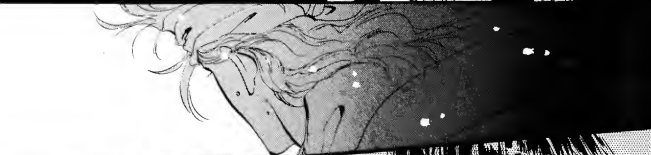




YOU GOT
THEM INTO
THIS—YOU
HAVE TO
SAVE THEM!

GET
AHOLD
OF
YOUR-
SELF!





TA...







REMEMBER
THE LEGEND
OF
YURIWAKA?

HAYATO...



A
FAL-
CON...



...AND
MAROONED
ON A
DESERT
ISLAND.

BUT
HE WAS
BETRAYED
BY ONE OF
HIS MEN...

DURING
THE
MONGOLIAN
INVASIONS OF
THE 13TH
CENTURY, THERE
WAS A VERY
POWERFUL
GENERAL.



...AND
BECAME
ONE OF
JAPAN'S
GREAT
SHOGUNS.

HE
VANQUISHED
THE
TRAITOR...



EVENTUALLY
HE FOUND HIS
WAY FREE.



YOU
WANT
ME
TO DO
THAT?

IT
WAS A
TAWNY
FALCON.



HE
WAS
AIDED BY A
FALCON THAT
CARRIED
MESSAGES TO
HIS FAMILY.



I
WANT TO
HAVE A
NORMAL,
EASY,
PEACEFUL
LIFE.

I DON'T
WANT TO
LIVE LIKE
THAT-

I
WANT TO
BE RICH
AND
BUILD A
HOUSE!

THE WAY
MY
GRANDPA
AND
FATHER
LIVED.



YOU WANT ME TO
AVENGE MY GREAT-
GRANDPA?

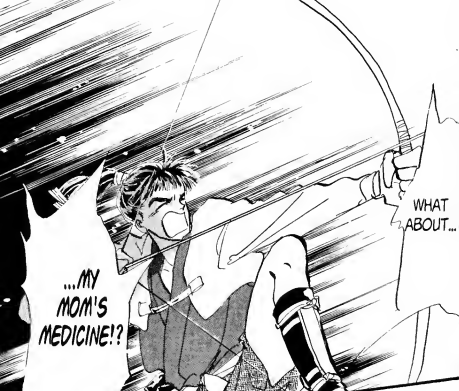


IS
THAT
WHAT THIS
MEANS!?



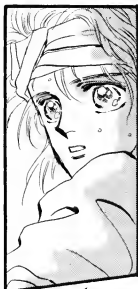
BUT...
DAMN
IT!

YOUR
GREAT-
GRANDPA
WAS A HERO
LIKE YURIWAKA.

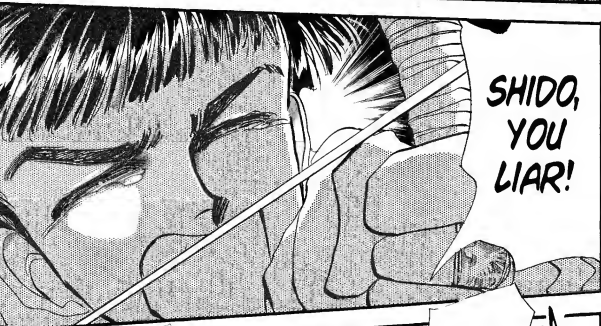


...MY
MOM'S
MEDICINE!?

WHAT
ABOUT...



PNG



SHIDO,
YOU
LIAR!



KTA KTA

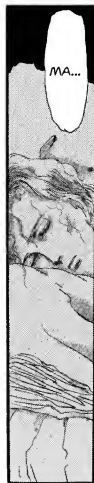
LET'S
GET OUT
OF HERE!

PNG

PNG

LET ME
GO,
DAMN IT!

YAAA





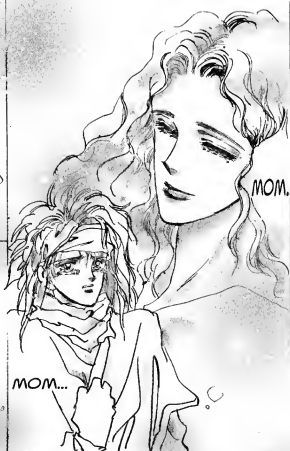
SO
MANY,
MANY
PEOPLE...

SO
MANY
PEOPLE...



...TOO
YOUNG...

...DIE
SO
YOUNG...



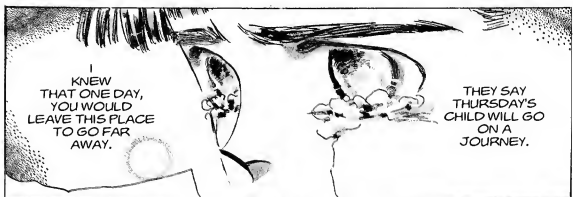
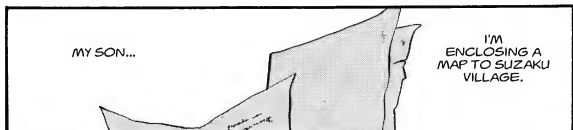
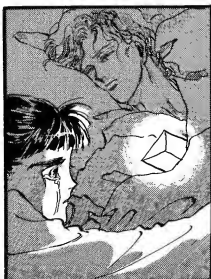
MOM.

MOM...



SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH A
WORLD LIKE
THAT.

SOMETHING'S
WRONG...
WITH A WORLD
LIKE THAT.







AW, THAT'S NOT FAIR.



IF YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH YATO.



I THINK I'D BE USEFUL.

I'M PRETTY TOUGH, YOU KNOW.

I CAN SHOOT AND RIDE,

EVEN COOK, CLEAN, AND SEW.



TWO PEOPLE WHO SEEMED TO BE HAYATO AND TATARA WERE SEEN HEADING SOUTH.

LORD SHIDO, I HAVE A REPORT FROM DAZAIFU.

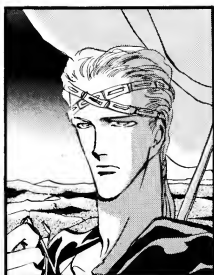
EN ROUTE.



THIS TIME,

I'LL GO.

TO SUZAKU, I ASSUME.

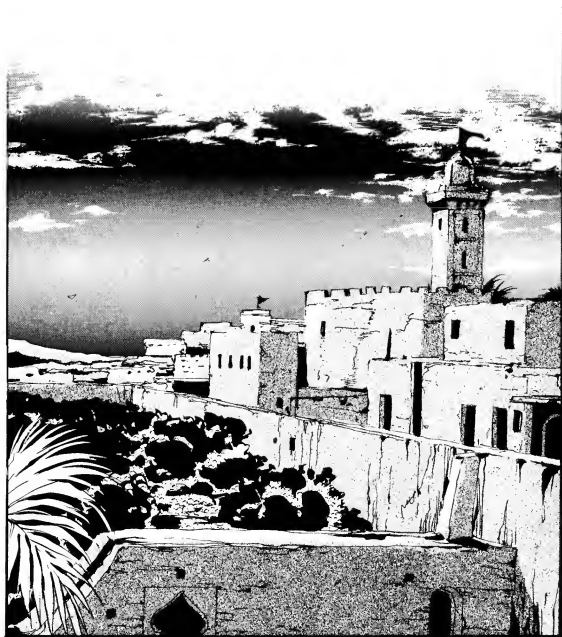


CHARTREUSE TALE 2:

REUNION



DAZAIFU

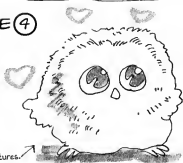




TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

Shinbashi

One of Kagero's four sons.
A newly hatched chick,
but a real whiz kid.



Owl chicks really do look like this in pictures.

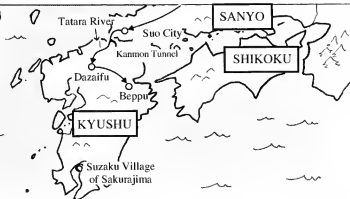
Shinbashi is the name of a shade of blue. It was originally a place name, but it was one of the favorite colors for the geisha from Shinbashi to wear.

WHO SAID "AKASAKA WOULD BE CUTE"? SOMEONE REALLY DID SAY THAT.

THAT'S TOO "FUNNY."

TAMU

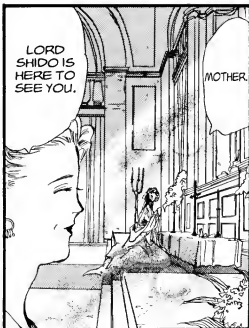
SARASA'S JOURNEY





LORD SHIDO!?

HE HAS RETURNED SAFELY?



LORD SHIDO IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

MOTHER.



SENJU.

OH, MY, I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.



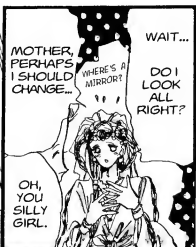
OH, MY, YOU'VE LET YOURSELF IN!

PLEASE, COME TO THE MAIN HALL.

LORD SHIDO.



HEH-HEH



MOTHER, PERHAPS I SHOULD CHANGE...

WHERE'S A MIRROR?

WAIT...

DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT?

OH, YOU SILLY GIRL.



LADY SENJU,

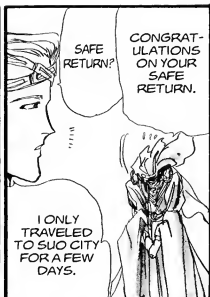
YOU ALWAYS LOOK BEAUTIFUL.



IN THAT
CASE, YOU'LL
ALWAYS HAVE
SOMETHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.



BUT THERE ARE
DESERTS AND
OCEANS ALONG
THE WAY.



SAFE
RETURN?

CONGRAT-
ULATIONS
ON YOUR
SAFE
RETURN.

I ONLY
TRAVELED
TO SUO CITY
FOR A FEW
DAYS.



PRESENTS
FOR MY
FIANCEE.

OH,
THIS IS
FROM THE
RED
KING.



I'D
LIKE TO
POSTPONE
THE
WEDDING
CEREMONY.



MAY WE
INVITE HIM
TO THE
WEDDING?

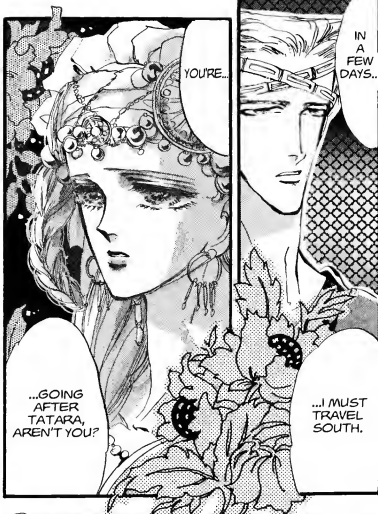
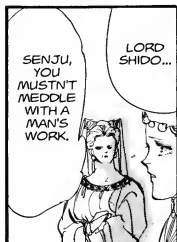
I WAS
JUST
SPEAKING
TO HER
FATHER
ABOUT
THAT.



OH, MY, HE'S
ALWAYS SO
THOUGHTFUL.
HE'S TOO GOOD
TO US.

THE
RED
KING...

SENJU,
WE'LL
HAVE TO
WRITE A
THANK
YOU
LETTER.







JUST
LET
'EM
COME!

ALL
RIGHT!



SOME-
ONE'S
COMING.

HA-
YATO.



HEY,
IT'S
HOT.
LET'S
TAKE A
BREAK!

WE
JUST
TOOK
ONE...



HOW
DID YOU
KNOW I
WAS
HERE!?

GOOD
TO SEE
YOU,
AGAIN.

TFF



HISHA!?



LORD
TATARA!



IF YOU
WANT TO
TALK TO
TATARA,
YOU'LL HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH
ME!

I'M
HAYATO,
TATARA'S
NUMBER
ONE MAN.

HEY!

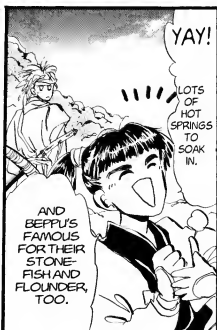
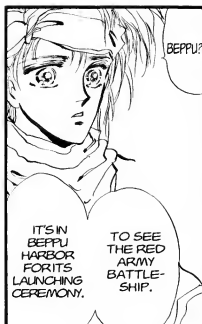


ANYONE
COMING
AFTER US?

I
SAW NO
ONE.

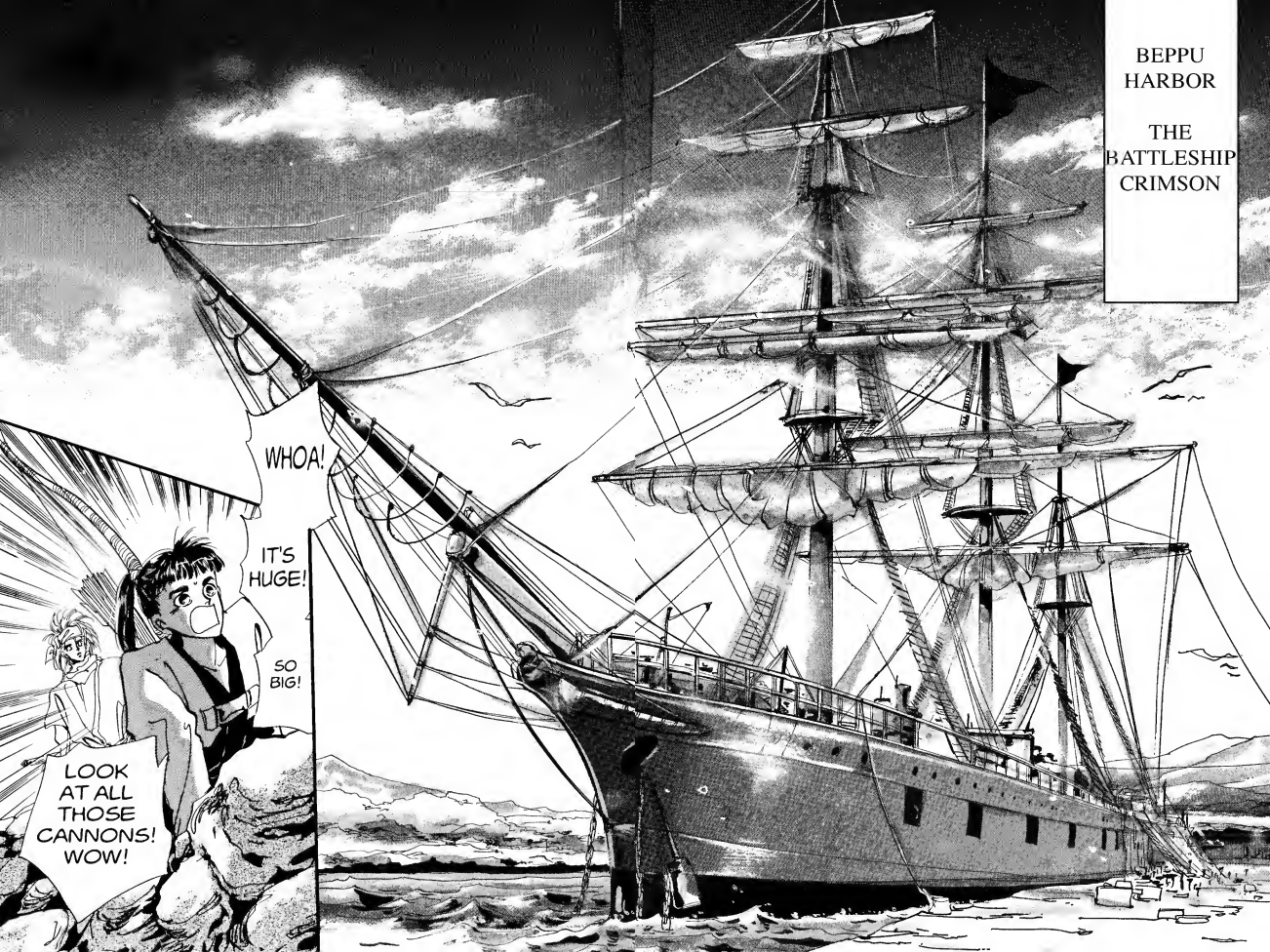


EVERYONE
SOUTH OF
DZAIFU IS
TALKING OF
NOTHING ELSE.
I FOLLOWED THE
RUMORS.



BEPPU
HARBOR

THE
BATTLESHIP
CRIMSON



ALWAYS...

ALWAYS...

...I AM OVER-
WHELMED BY
THE RED KING.

HOW
AM I
EVER...

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DEFEAT
HIM?

OF
COURSE
NOT.
YOU THINK
THEY WANT THE
YOUNGEST TO BE BETTER
THAN THEM?

HIS
BROTHERS
AND
FATHER
DON'T SEEM TO
LIKE IT.

BUT
THE
OTHERS...

THEY
SAY IT
RUNS ON
SAIL AND
STEAM.

THE
RED
KING IS
AMAZING.



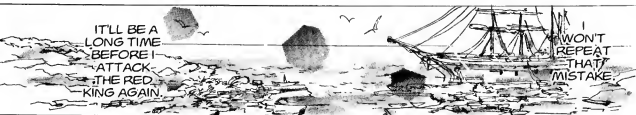
A
FOOL...

...TRIED
TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
BEFORE, AND
FAILED
MISERABLY.



LET'S
SHOW
HIM!

LET'S SET
FIRE TO IT
OR SOME-
THING!



IT'LL BE A
LONG TIME
BEFORE I
ATTACK
THE RED
KING AGAIN.

I
WON'T
REPEAT
THAT
MISTAKE.



IT'S
ALMOST
DARK.

AW,

BUT I
GOT
US A
ROOM
AT AN
INN.

LET'S
GET
SOME
SEA-
FOOD!

NOT
EASY!



WE'RE
CAMPING!

WE CAN'T
SPLURGE
LIKE
THAT!

ANY,
COME ON!



I HAVEN'T
DONE
ANYTHING
SINCE I'VE
BEEN ON MY
OWN.

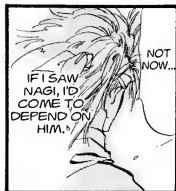
I CAN'T
SEE HIM
YET.



SHK

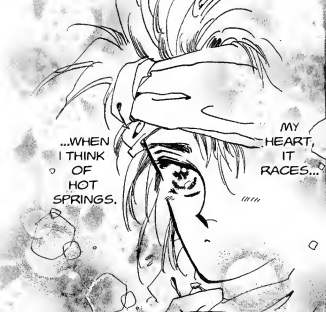
NOT
UNTIL I
HAVE
MORE
ALLIES...

...HUH?
YOU'RE
NOT
GONNA
SEE YOUR
FRIENDS?



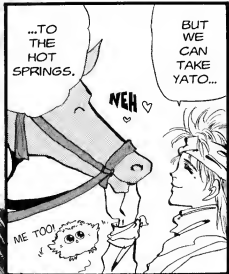
NOT
NOW...

IF I SAW
NAGI, I'D
COME TO
DEPEND ON
HIM.



...WHEN
I THINK
OF
HOT
SPRINGS.

MY
HEART,
IT
RACES...



...TO
THE
HOT
SPRINGS.

BUT
WE
CAN
TAKE
YATO...

NEH ♡

ME TOO!

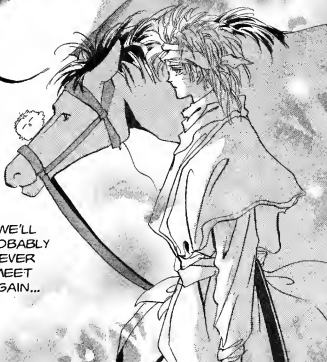


SHURI...

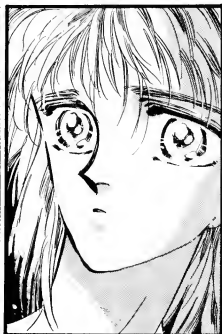
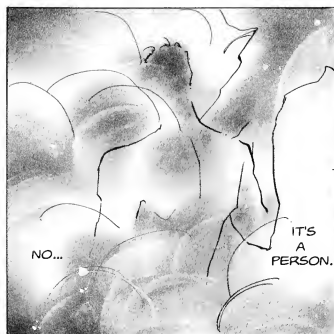
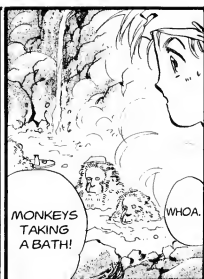


NO
ONE
SHOULD
SEE US
HERE.

THE
WATER'S
FLOWING
OUT
FROM
EVERY-
WHERE!



WE'LL
PROBABLY
NEVER
MEET
AGAIN...





A
MARK
ON HIS
BACK...

THE
MARK
OF A
SLAVE!

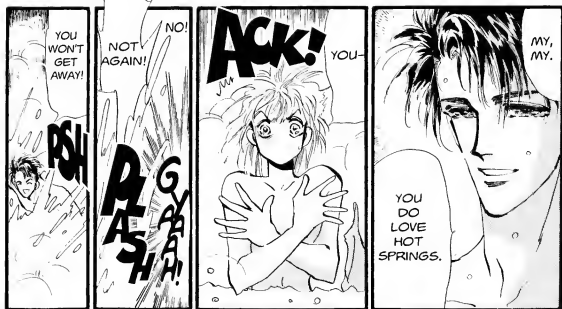
JUST
LIKE
AGEHA...

SHURI!

SHURI...

HE
WAS A
SLAVE,
TOO!?







HA!
HA!

HA!



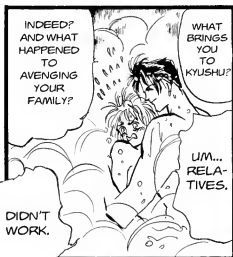
WHA...
KOFF

LET
ME
GO!

WHAT
ARE
YOU...



ZO
ASH



INDEED?
AND WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
AVENGING
YOUR
FAMILY?

WHAT
BRINGS
YOU
TO
KYUSHU?

UM...
RELA-
TIVES.

DIDN'T
WORK.



B-BUMP

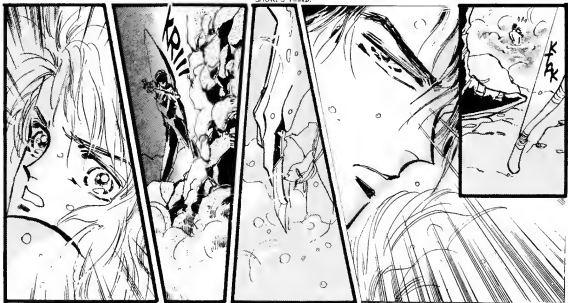


YOU
KNOW...

...I'VE
MISSED
YOU.



SHURI'S HAND.



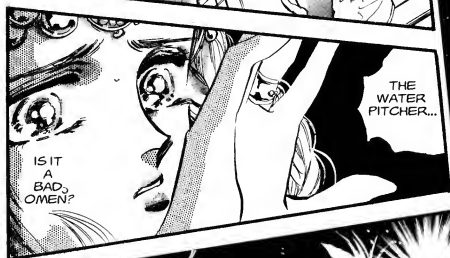


THEY
REALLY
DON'T
LIKE
THAT
BATTLE-
SHIP.



DON'T DO THIS IF YOU HAVE CAVITIES.









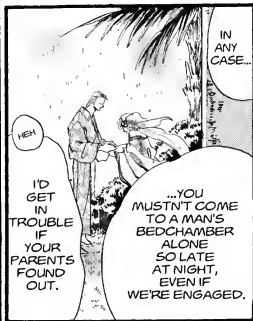


SENJU...

LET ME STAY BY YOUR SIDE UNTIL THE MORNING...



...MAKE ME YOUR WIFE RIGHT NOW.



...THAN YOU DO ABOUT ME.



AFTER ALL,

OUR PARENTS ARRANGED THIS MARRIAGE.



I'M SORRY.

OFF

SENJU!



...I'M SURPRISED.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH PASSION.



HOW IM-MODEST OF ME...

I AM SO SORRY...



WAIT.

DON'T CARE!
DON'T LOOK AT ME!

YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
I CAN'T LET YOU WALK HOME LIKE THIS.



AND I SET MY STANDARDS HIGH FOR THE WOMAN I WILL MARRY.

IS IT MEANINGLESS THAT WE ARE ENGAGED?



SENJU.

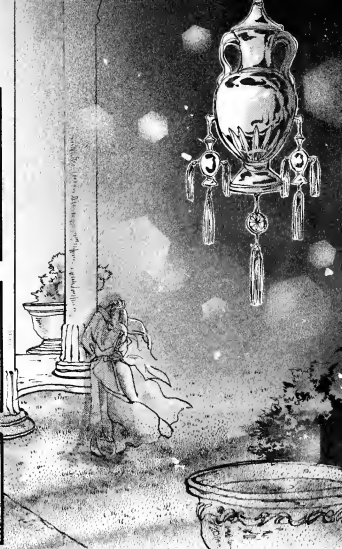
I AM A MAN WHO CAN REFUSE SOMETHING HE DOES WANT.

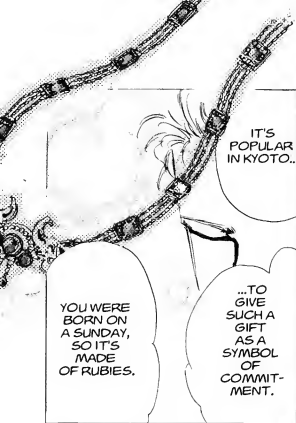


I DESERVE TO CATCH A COLD, OR BE HIT BY LIGHTNING.

I'M SO ASHAMED!







IT'S
POPULAR
IN KYOTO...

YOU WERE
BORN ON
A SUNDAY,
SO IT'S
MADE
OF RUBIES.

...TO
GIVE
SUCH A
GIFT
AS A
SYMBOL
OF
COMMIT-
MENT.



HERE.

OH!
HOW
BEAU-
TIFUL.

I HAD
WANTED
TO GIVE
THIS
TO YOU
AT THE
CEREMONY.



I THINK
I WAS BORN
ON A MONDAY-
PEARLS.

AND
YOU,
LORD
SHIDO?



LORD
SHIDO...



...DIVINE
PROTECTION
TO MY
HUSBAND.

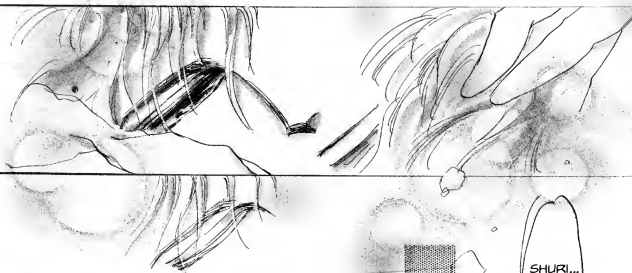
MAY
GOD
OFFER...



THEN
HERE.



Hyooooo

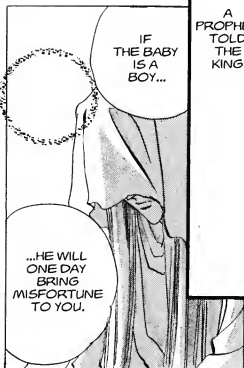
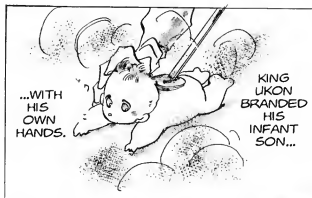


CURSED?

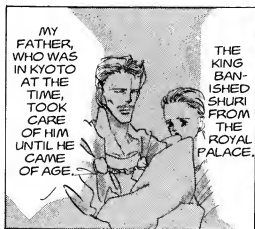
...BEFORE
HE WAS
BORN.

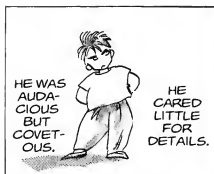
SHURI...

...WAS
CURSED...



A
PROPHET
TOLD
THE
KING:





AND I
WAS
BETTER
THAN
HIM
AT
EVERY-
THING.

ARE YOU
WARM ENOUGH?

TO
BE
HONEST...

HES,



I WAS ALSO
OF THE ROYAL
FAMILY, THOUGH
NOT IN A
DIRECT LINE OF
DESCENT...

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
UNFAIR
THAT I
WOULD
NEVER
HAVE THE
THRONE.

THEN...
...OUT OF THE BLUE...
...HE WOULD QUOTE GENERAL XIANG YU.



SHIDO!

I'M
TAKING
OVER
THIS
COUNTRY!

HE WAS
GOOD AT
BLUFFING
AND
TALKING
BIG.

I AM
JAPAN
ITSELF!



I DON'T KNOW
IF IT WAS
TO SPITE HIM,
OR TO TEST HIM...

...OR ONLY FOR A JOKE.

...SHURI
DID
NOTHING
BUT
AMUSE
HIMSELF.

FOR
THREE
YEARS...

...ASSIGNED
HIM THE
CENTRAL
DESERT,
WHICH
WASN'T
YET
EVEN
PROPERLY
UNDER RULE.

WHEN
HE
TURNED
TWELVE...

...KING
UKON
XV...

SOON...

...I FOUND
MYSELF
FASCINATED
BY MY
LITTLE
COUSIN.



AND
AFTER
3 YEARS...



...WHO
WOULD
SWEAR
LOYALTY
ONLY
TO HIM.

HE
WAITED...

...AND
CHOSE
VASSALS...

...THAT
THIS
WAS A
MAN
OF A
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
CALIBER.

I
THOUGHT...

...A
KING
AMONG
KINGS!

HE
WOULD
BE...

I'LL
KNOW
IF I
AM A
GOOD
JUDGE
OF
MEN.

THEN...

I
KNEW...

...I
WANTED
TO AID
IN HIS
VISION.

SOON...

...HE
HAD
ALL OF
WESTERN
JAPAN
UNDER
HIS
RULE.

...HE
WOULD
HAVE
GROWN
COMPLACENT
AND
SPOILED
AS THE
BABY OF
THE FAMILY.

WAS
THIS
WHAT
THE
PROPHET
HAD
INTENDED
!?

IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR
THAT
CURSE...



...OF
ROARING
CRIMSON
FLAMES!

I HAVE...

...A
DREAM...

A
DREAM
OF A
LONE
KING...

...WHO
KEEPS
RIDING,
RIDING...



WHEN
TWO
JUSTI-
CES
CLASH...

...THERE
WILL
BE
WAR.



TATARA
WAS
ALSO
CURSED
BY THE
PROPHETS.

HE
HAS
HIS OWN
JUSTICE,
I'M SURE.



THE
REASON
I MUST
NOT
SAY A
WORD?

HE
IS WISE.



IS
THIS...

...THE
REASON
HE HAS
TO DO
THIS
THING?



WHY?

WHY
ARE
YOU
TELLING
ME
THIS?



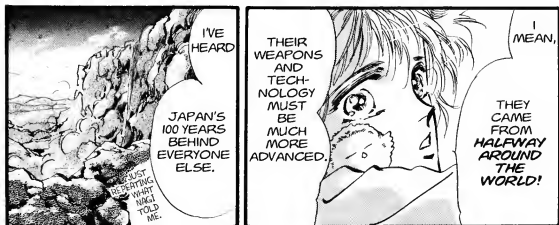
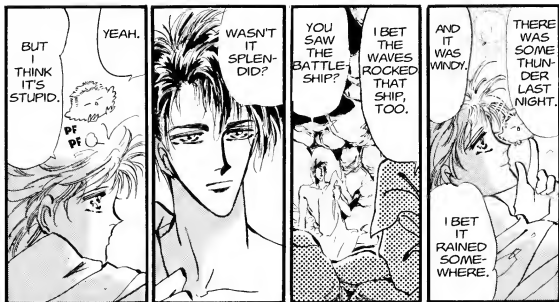
AND
THERE
IS...

...NO
RUNNER-UP...

...IN WAR.

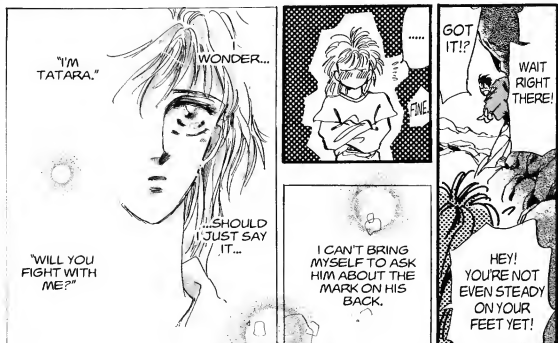
HOW
DO
YOU
FEEL?

OH,
YOU'RE
AWAKE.











BESIDES, I WON'T BE STAYING IN ONE PLACE.



BRIGHT RED PARROT

HE'S SO INCREDIBLY...

...PUSHY.





BUT...

...WHAT SHOULD I DO?

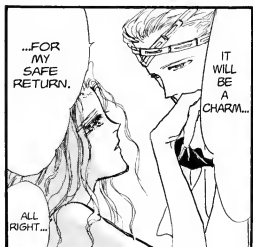
I FEEL
SO MUCH
WHEN I'M
WITH HIM...



IF
YOU'RE
STILL
WORRIED,
TIE A
YELLOW
RIBBON
TO A
TREE.

HEH

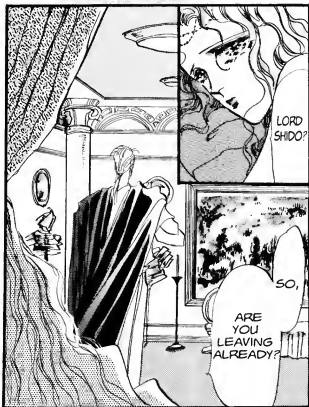
I'LL
BE
BACK
SOON.



...FOR
MY
SAFE
RETURN.

IT
WILL
BE
A
CHARM...

ALL
RIGHT...



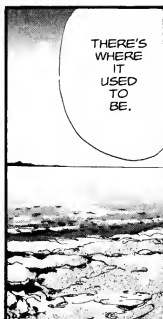
LORD
SHIDO?

SO,

ARE
YOU
LEAVING
ALREADY?









ANOTHER BONUS

TAM-TAM TIME

I went on a research trip to Kyushu!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR
SUPPORT AND LETTERS!

I READ ALL OF
THEM, BUT I APOLOGIZE
FOR BEING POKEY WITH
REPLIES.

HOW IS EVERYONE?

"THERE GOES
TOMOE!" EIGHT...

...AND TAM'S "ANYTHING
GOES" CAPSULE VOL.4:
"THE REASON WHY I BECAME
A THIEF" ARE OUT IN JAPAN.

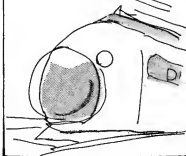
PLEASE
BUY THEM!



TAM. ♡

HE'S IN IT.

This is beside
the point,
but I don't
like planes.
I've flown
many times,
and I have a
good time
once I'm
on board,
but I still
don't like it.



Ryuzaburo,
our guide.



I WANT
TO
SEE

THE
KANMON
TUNNEL,
SO I'LL GO
BY BULLET
TRAIN.

SEE YOU LATER!

TAKE
A
PLANE.

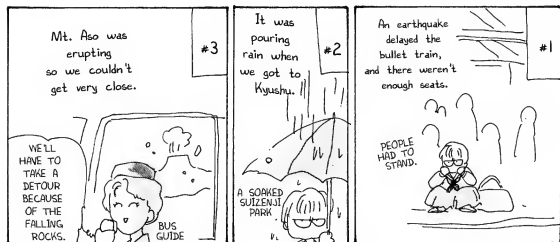
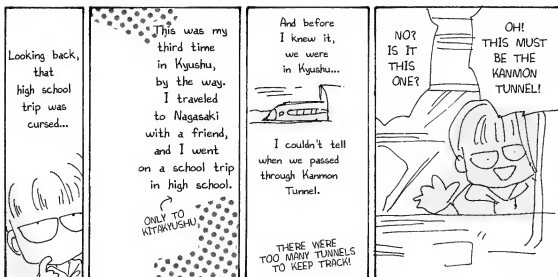


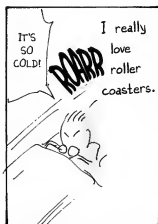
YOU
CAN'T
SEE
THE
TUNNEL
FROM
THE
TRAIN.

It was a while ago, but
since "BASARA" was going
to take place in Kyushu...

I decided to go
on a research
trip and attend
a Manga
Seminar in
Hakata at the
same time.







I really love roller coasters.

THAT ONE, AND THAT ONE!

It was off-season, so there was no crowd, and I could ride all the rides!



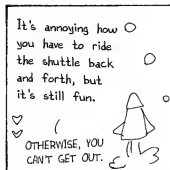
SPACE WORLD

First, off to North Kyushu Space World! ♥

I FORGET WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

WHEE!

This is where I wanted to come!



It's annoying how you have to ride the shuttle back and forth, but it's still fun.

There's a dome where you ride a shuttle to a space station, and you can play inside.

OTHERWISE, YOU CAN'T GET OUT.



And then I went to Hakata for the night.

I stuffed myself at the Nakasu street stalls.

I LINED UP FOR RAMEN, TOO.

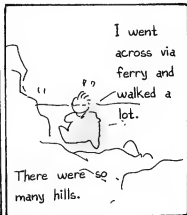
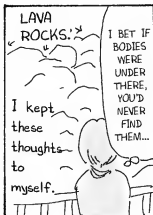
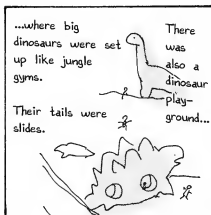
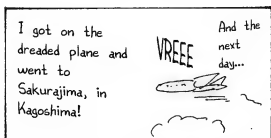
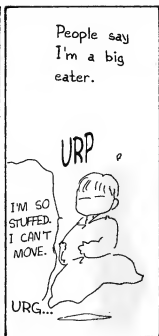
I swore I'd come on another research trip.

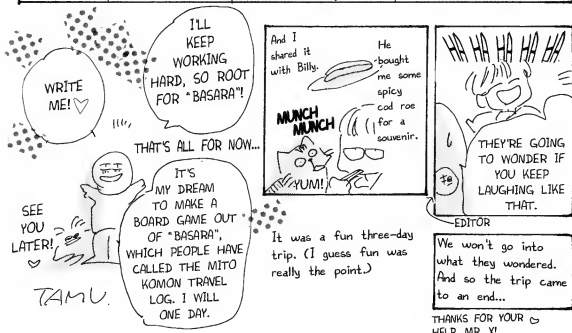


There's something similar to NASA's Space Camp there, too,

You can take a course over several days where you get trained as an astronaut.







Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

Chicago

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."

Banana Fish

Currently running in the anthology *Animerica Extra*, Amiki Yoshida's most famous series is filled with gritty action. When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that cause gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."

Vagabond

One of the best action artists out there, Takehiko Inoue puts his skills to the test in this extraordinary series. Inspired by Eiji Yoshikawa's classic samurai story *Musashi*, *Vagabond* is the tale of an unfocused soldier on the losing side of history. Takezo's initial goal of survival escalates the violence around him, turning him into a homicidal wildman. Through the way of the sword, he must transform himself from brute to saint.

Editor's comments

There are several items deserving some explanation in this issue.

The first involves the names of the owl chicks. All of them are named after famous Japanese bridges. Okay, so what about the "waribashi" thing? Well, that's just a bit of Tamura humor. Waribashi are disposable chopsticks, and after all those bridge names (the Japanese word for bridge is "bashi") she couldn't resist throwing in another word with the same sound.

When Shido questions Mario, the mug he's holding bears the scenario-appropriate kanji, or ideogram, "sei," which means "honesty" and "truth"—another sample of wry Tamura humor.

Some readers may wonder "what the heck was that?" concerning the bit about cherry trees when Rasha dies. It's a famous waka (or tanka) poem from *Tadanori*, a No play about a famous warrior and poet buried under a cherry tree at his death. No is the traditional theater of nobility, as opposed to the more flamboyant Kabuki many readers may be familiar with. That Sarasa knows the poem is an indication of how well educated she is. That she thinks of this dignified death-oriented verse at Rasha's passing expresses her regard and is meant to intensify the poignancy of the moment.

And why did Senju drink tea when she and Shido married? It's actually sake (rice wine). "San san kudo" is a traditional part of Shinto wedding ceremonies involving the couple sharing sips of sake from special, shallow cups. This sharing symbolizes the bonds of husband and wife and is considered the most moving part of the ceremony.

Also worth mentioning is that there are four underwater tunnels connecting Japan's main island, Honshu, with its large southern island, Kyushu. There is a Kanmon auto tunnel, a Kanmon railway tunnel, a Kanmon Shinkansen (Bullet Train) tunnel and a Kanmon pedestrian tunnel!